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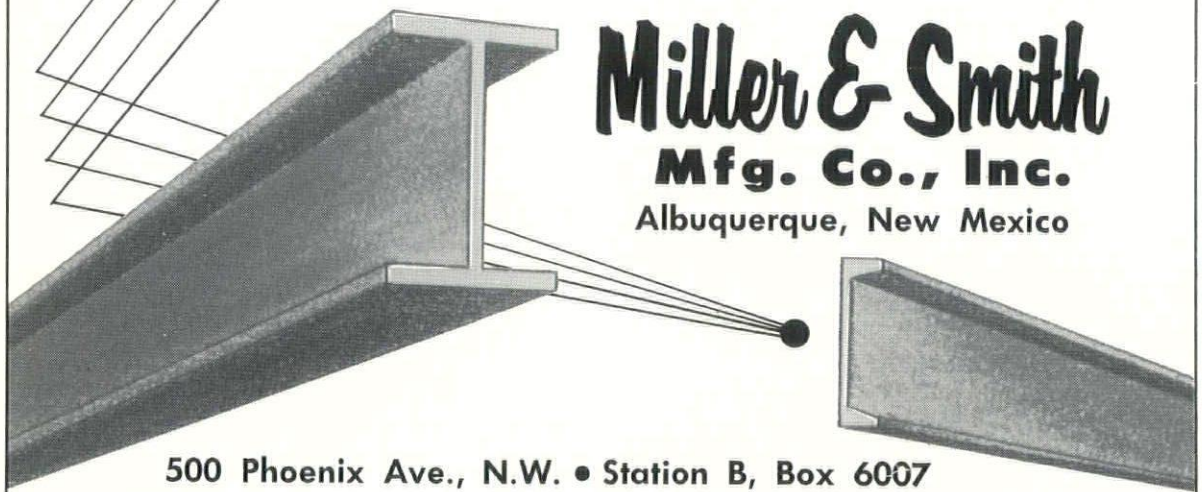

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September, 1959
Vol. 1, No. 5

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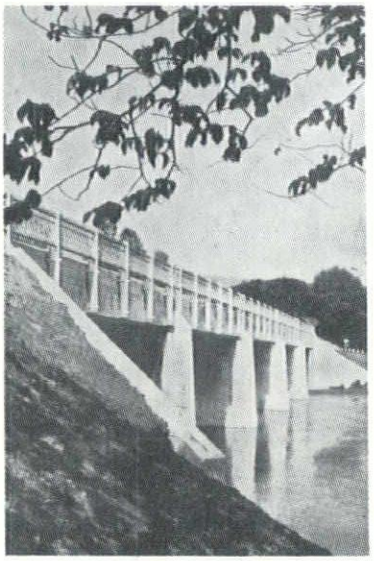

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A Message From the President

The July-August issue of the NEW MEXICO ARCHITECT carried quite adequately items of interest as well as comprehensive reports on the National Convention held recently in New Orleans, so with that out of the way, I should like to look in the direction of our forthcoming Regional Conference.

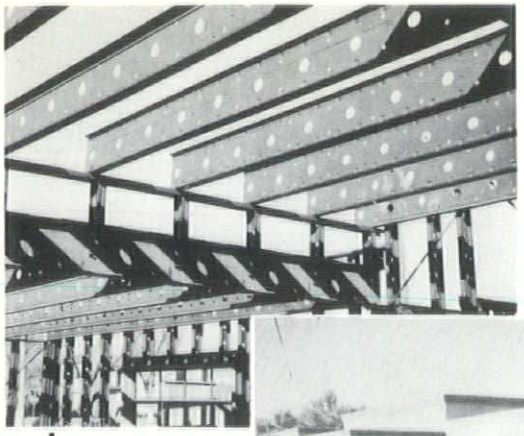
It is my opinion that something should be said of our scheduled speakers. I am certain those of you attending the Conference will enjoy the speakers' remarks more fully if you are more familiar with their backgounds. So in light of that, I shall plead your indulgence as this message is somewhat longer than usual.

Thursday, following the opening of the conference, and the message of welcome by our own Governor John Burroughs, Dr. Clayton S. White will give the keynote address. Dr. White is Director of Research for the Lovelace Foundation and is by reputation the foremost authority in the country in the radiobiology field as it pertains to nuclear weapons environments. Dr. White has attained many degrees in the field of medicine and is a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He also holds memberships in Greek letter orders appropos to this profession.

Mr. C. H. Topping will address us following our Thursday luncheon. Mr. Topping is the Senior Architectual and Civil Consultant, Design Division, E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Inc., in Wilmington, Delaware, and again is a very highly sought after speaker on architecture and research. Unfortunately, we do not possess too much background on Mr. Topping; however, we do know that he has recently appeared before such distinguished groups as the National Association of Home Builders, American Society of Standards Engineers, Texas Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, St. Louis Engineers Club, a national organization of College Building Superintendents, the Yale School of Architecture and many other such organizations.

Our dinner speaker concluding Thursday's events is to be the noted scientist Dr. Herman Von Spoomo, PhD, LLD, DS, MS, ARA, who has devoted many years to the field of scientific

(Continued on Page 14)



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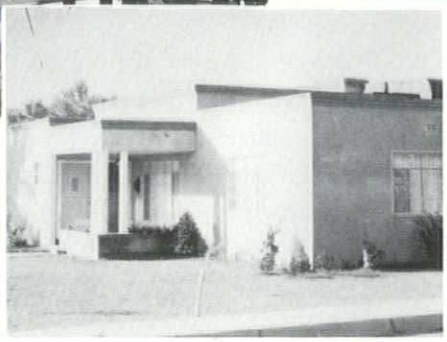

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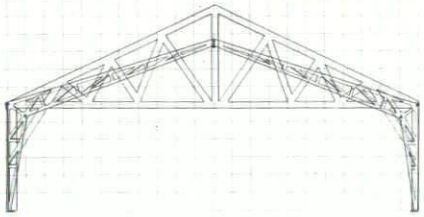

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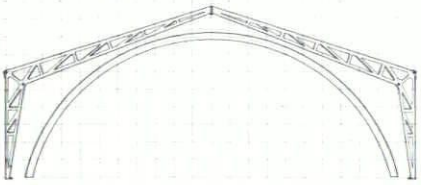
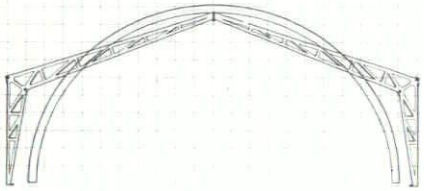
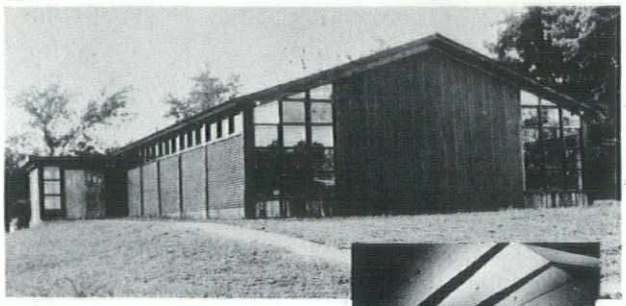


Low Arch Compared with Steel Span



Balloon Arch Compared with Steel Span



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A Message From Your Regional Director

There is one thing that the Western Mountain members of the American Institute of Architects can be assured of in attending the Regional Conference in Albuquerque, and that is that they will be very glad that they attended. Not only will each member and his family enjoy the fellowship in the social events but each Architect, Draftsman and Student will honestly benefit by his attendance at the professional programs, and by his contacts with his fellow Architects from the other states.

No one can attend a conference with such a fine program as presented by the Albuquerque Architects without returning home inspired and grateful.

I sincerely hope that you will take this as a personal invitation and a strong plea for your presence.

Frederic H. Porter

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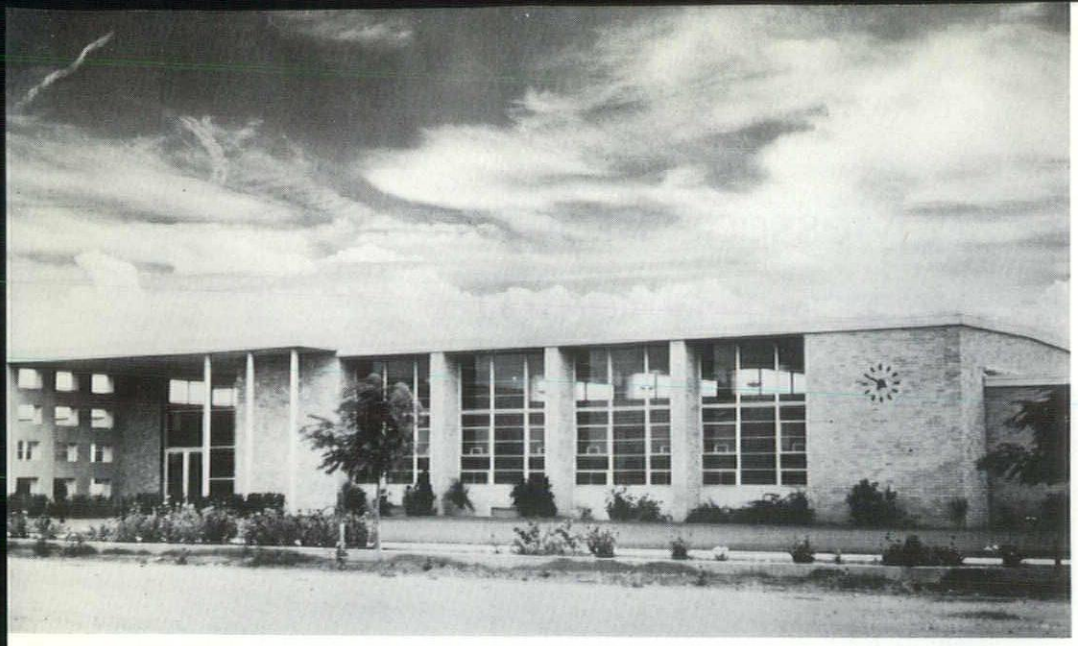
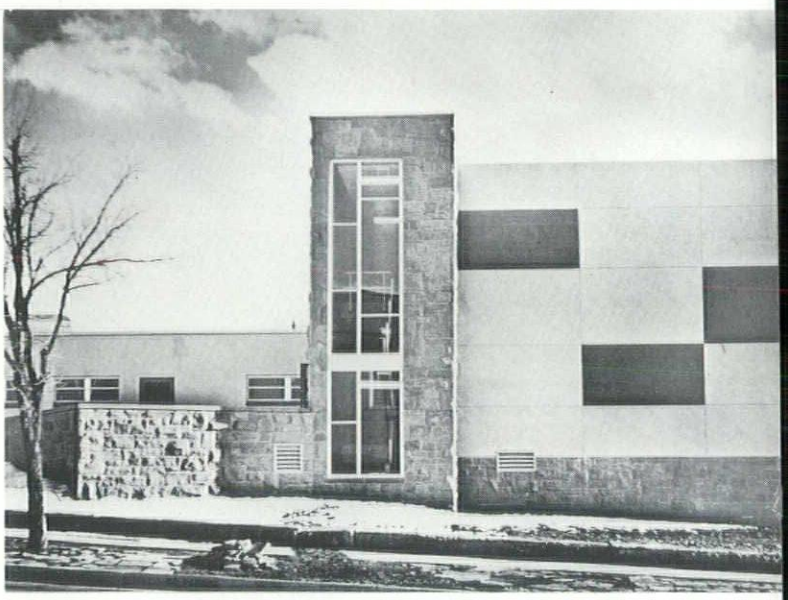


Tatum High School
Tatum, New Mexico
1952

Profile: Smith



Arts & Education Building
Highland University
Las Vegas, New Mexico
1957

Elementary School
Carlsbad, New Mexico
1954

Profile of an Architect: Kern Smith

Kern Smith, a native of New Mexico, was born in Clovis January 15, 1914. He graduated from the Clovis High School in 1931, at which time an architectural career did not appear to be an objective of his. This was later realized through a series of logical steps that indicated his keen interest in construction and its related fields.

Upon his high school graduation Mr. Smith entered Coyne Electrical School for vocational training. The same year, 1931, he entered San Bernardino Junior College where he studied aeronautical engineering. Still attempting to formulate his ambitions, he left school in 1932 and spent a year working as a cashier for the Fred Harvey system, followed by five years as electrician and diesel mechanic for Railway's Ice Company in Clovis.

With his interests resolved in mechanics, Kern Smith came to Carlsbad in 1939 as an engineering draftsman with International Minerals and Chemical Co. This was during the company's construction of a six million dollar potash mine and refinery. During his five years with International Minerals he gained a vast amount of experience in flow sheet and process design drafting with subsequent design and detail of heavy steel, concrete, and wood structures. This work related to the construction of housing for process equipment such as vibrating screens, vacuum filters, evaporative and rotary drying equipment, belt and chain conveyers, heavy duty rock crushers, centifugal filters, flotation machines, loading equipment and other equipment used in processing. It also included the design of galleries, office buildings and other related structures. A continuation of this technical experience was achieved when Mr. Smith accepted the position of chief draftsman wth Potash Company of America, also in Carlsbad, in 1944.

Well grounded in structural design and 32 years of age Mr. Smith resolved to become an architect. In 1946 he resigned his position as chief draftsman and entered the University of California, and after two years of year 'round study he received his B.A. in Industrial Design. In 1948 he returned to Carlsbad where he was re-employed by the Potash Company of America as construction engineer.

In the fall of 1950 he became a registered architect in New Mexico and opened his office in Carlsbad the following June. Since that time he has designed banks in Carlsbad, Alamogordo, Socorro, Grants, and Las Vegas, New Mexico. Church designs to his credit are located in Tatum, Carlsbad, Alamogordo, Las Vegas, Artesia and Clovis. Further, he designed schools and gymnasiums in Tatum, Carlsbad, Las Vegas and Hondo, New Mexico, and the dormitories and educational buildings for Highlands University in Las Vegas. His hospital designs can be found in Carlsbad, Alamogordo and Ruidoso. There are many other projects to his credit which emphasize a high point of success during his eight years as a practicing architect. He holds a National Council Certificate of Registration and is registered to practice architecture in New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado.

Mr. Smith's professional interests extend beyond his office by way of having served as secretary of the Carlsbad City Planning Commission, currently Vice Chairman of the New Mexico Board of Architectural Examiners, Director of the New Mexico Chapter AIA and also a member of the American Association of Engineers. He is a member of the Masonic Bodies, the Ballut Abyad Shrine and is past active on the Eddy County Red Cross Board. He is affiliated with the Epworth Methodist Church, having served as chairman of the Board of Stewards and currently a member of the Board of Mission and Church Extension of the New Mexico Conference of Methodist Churches.

Though Mr. Smith's career has been full and varied, there has been a lighter side as noted by his divergent interests. For many years he played trumpet and trombone in a dance band, and for future moments of relaxation he is presently building a mountain cabin near Cloudcroft, New Mexico. For both business and pleasure he pilots his own Cessna 182 airplane, having seven hundred hours flying time to his credit.

Only a few years after graduating from high school Mr. Smith married Erma Dell Melton. They have two childen, Jeanine who is 17 and Douglas, now 15.

Although his career is still before him, Kern Smith has built a monument to himself and his profession through the beauty of simplicity, combined with the functional constant.

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Albuquerque National Bank, E

A business-stimulating combination of beauty and functionalism has been achieved by W. C. Kruger Company in the new Albuquerque National Bank branch building at Central and Washington Streets in Albuquerque.

Of particular significance in the design and planning of this bank is the powerful influence which the automobile played in the design concept This bank building is specifically and ingeniously geared to the automobile borne client. Its three drive-up teller windows are designed to perform all routine banking functions while the client remains in his car. Traffic flow has been carefully plotted, and for those who wish to do business within the bank, ease of entry from the 71 parking spaces has been provided by opening up both the back and front of the bank interior.

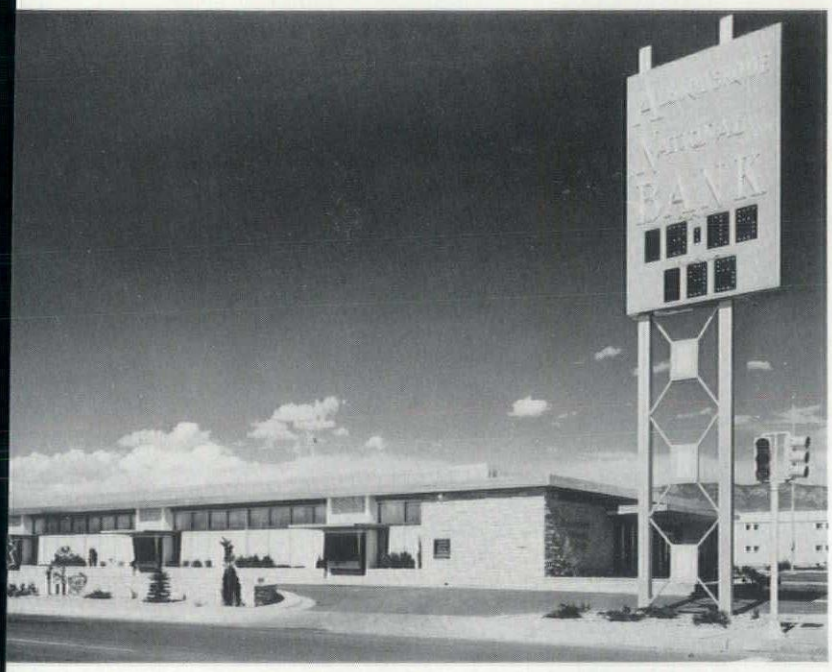
The bank exterior has a jewel-like quality—with a sparkle and glitter that catches the eye of the passing motorist. Much of this glitter comes from aluminum accents and glass areas which stand out against the stacked bond brick and Arizona sandstone walls. A pleasing element of warmth is further emphasized by the use of colorful mosaic tile at front and rear entrances and in gray, blue and white tile spandrels over the drive-up teller windows. The bank's exterior mood is also emphasized through the extensive use of planters, which completely encircle the building, softening its lines through the use of flowers and shrubs.

Said Architect Kruger, "Our objective was to give the client the design dividends that result from combining order, utility and beauty in such a way that bank customers are first of all attracted, and then, once inside, are given a feeling of elegance and restraint. We have sought to make discriminating decisions in the use of space, form, color, texture, and proportion in such a way that the structure of this bank will project a feeling about the effectiveness and worth of its function to its clients."

The interior of the bank is paneled in black walnut, which is made lightly elegant through the use of aluminum accents. Walnut furnishings for the officers' platform opposite the tellers' windows, and drapes which provide a translucent color accent, were specified by the Architect. The interior layout is effectively functional, with a bookkeeping area 115 feet long directly behind the curving teller counter. Special areas are provided for all banking functions, while the open plan gives the client a feeling of easy accessibility and official friendliness.

A full basement offers extensive storage areas, employes' lounge and dining areas and mechanical equipment rooms. Carrying out the bank's overall concept of being a community service institution, the basement also includes a community room which is available for meetings and all types of customer activities.

al Office



Something To Think About

A pre-convention conference was sponsored by the National Committee on Chapter Affairs with Glenn Hunter, A.I.A. of California, as presiding chairman. The conference was attended by your president, presidents of other state societies and chapters, and other interested in chapter affairs. The purpose was to discuss chapter attendance, programming and the creation of new chapters.

It was observed that programming had a major effect on attendance and often determined whether the turnout was good or only fair. Where the ladies were included, as a social hour and dinner after the business meeting, attendance was good. This has been the case in New Mexico.

Further, it was generally agreed that chapter attendance was high in densely populated areas and tended to fall off where travel distance became a factor. The latter seems to be typical of the New Mexico Chapter. There is no apparent solution unless associations under the State Chapter be formed or an independent chapter be created thereby forming a state association. This has proven to be quite desirable in many cases as in our neighboring states, Texas and Arizona. Phoenix and Tucson are separated by only 120 miles yet the formation of two chapters in Arizona reflected greatly improved relations and overall accomplishments of the A.I.A. in the state. In light of this—is this not the solution to the situation in New Mexico?

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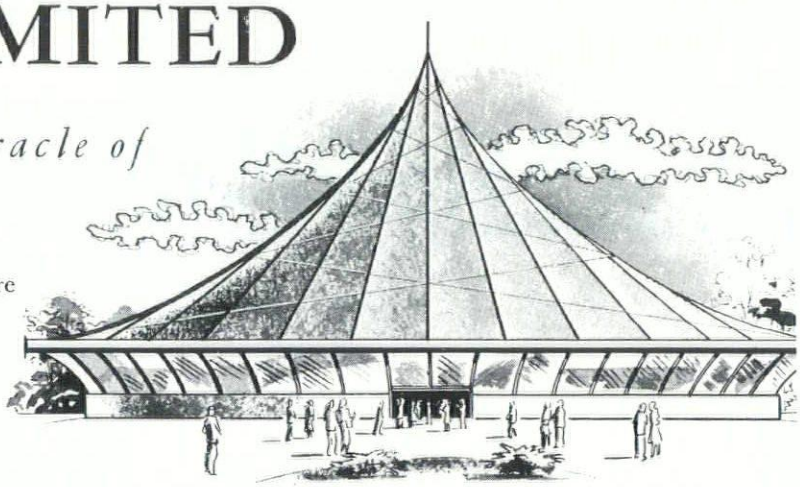

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Report From the University: The Business of Architecture

By Don P. Schlegel
Assoc. Prof. of Architecture
University of New Mexico

Recently I returned from a two week seminar on Architectural Education at Grindstone Lake, Wisconsin. This conference was sponsored by the Associated Collegiate Schools of Architecture and The American Institute of Architects. The New Mexico chapter of the A.I.A. contributed a one-half scholarship which made it possible for me to be one of the participants. The seminar was attended by fifty architectural educators. There were morning, afternoon, and evening sessions with prominent architects and educators leading the discussions.

The keynote of the conference was established by John Burchard as he posed the questions "What is the true picture of architectural practice today?" and "Are the schools training architects to fulfil this roll?"

Time and time again the answer was "No." The schools were training men in the tradition of the 19th Century dilettante architect. Each hopes to be another "Howard Roark." Architectural schools emphasize design for all their students, disregarding the fact that only 5% of them ever become designers and that there are many other services an architect must provide. Charles Burchard, Jean Paul Carlhian, Ralph Rapson, Edmond Bacon, Paul Goodman, to mention only a few, expressed many ideas in regard to this.

The summation of the conference seemed to be that the architectural revolution is over. Contemporary architecture has won. Individualism is dead. The basic appoaches to architecture are established. Our function is to refine, not to continue the design battle. This is not as exciting as the revolution but is much more difficult. We must now strengthen our positions. We must prove we are worthy of our responsibility of environmental control. We must prove to society we are essential, that our service is for its benefit, that we supply a comprehensive and realistic need.

This is the period of large corporations, demanding a comprehensive design service. If the architectural office doesn't supply this service some one else will.

It was further concluded that the so-called A.I.A. code of ethics, which in many cases prevents this, is obsolete and the architectural profession today can be compared with our amateurism in college football. Every architect talks about ethics, but a great deal of hypocracy is involved. We must reinvestigate taboo restrictions imposed on the profession, such as, the package deal, architects doing contracting, architects investing in buildings, public relations and fees and answer these questions based on conditions today. Stop this stupid argument as to whether architecture is an art or a profession—architecture is a business.

Charles Burchard, who is a partner in Kenny Corp. in Cincinnati, Ohio, outlined their organization. It consists of 200 people which include 45 architects, 5 designers, planners, engineers including processing engineers, chemists, economists, sociologists, and three public relations men. This company provides

(Continued on Page 15)

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President's Message

(Continued from Page 5)

research pertinent to the subject to be discussed at the Conference. To dwell on Dr. Von Spoomo's many accomplishments would be too much to include in my message, but I will say that Dr. Von Spoomo is the man that has completed plans and specifications for houses to be built on Mars out of materials obtainable locally. The Doctor will discuss some of the construction problems one finds on Mars, in some detail.

On Friday, after lunch we shall hear from one of our own members of the Institute, Herbert H. Swinburne. Mr. Swinburne is from Philadelphia and is actively on the Research Committee of the Institute. He is a very desired speaker in the field of scientific approaches to architectural problems. Mr. Swinburne is President of the firm of Nolen & Swinburne, Philadelphia, and received the bronze medal from the Philadelphia AIA Chapter in 1951, Press Hall Citation in 1955, Benjamin Franklin Medal, Producers' Council in 1955 and has been a widely honored and successful architect.

Saturday morning will be our Regional Business meeting with our District Representative Mr. Federic "Bunk" Porter presiding. At this meeting we will be addressed by our hard working and ever popular Executive Director of the Institute, Mr. Edmund R. Purves, FAIA. "Ned" never fails to deliver a message which leaves one quite thoughtful and striving for a better understanding which comes with solid thinking and absorption.

Dr. E. J. Workman, President of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology at Socorro, New Mexico, will speak Saturday evening. "Jack", as he is called most affectionately by those of us who know him, will have a message which will, I am sure, astound us. He is noted for just that sort of message, as you will later agree. Dr. Workman was for a pe-

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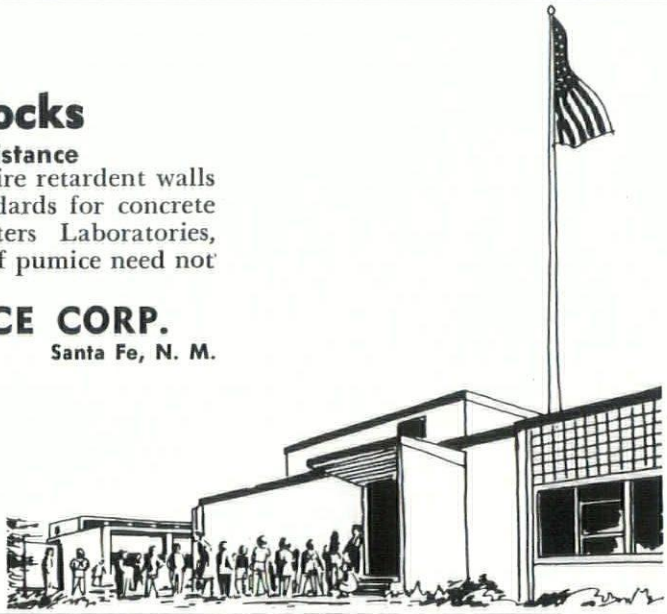

riod Chairman of the Department of Physics at the University of New Mexico. He is an eminent research scientist in the field of Physics. Dr. Workman is one of the co-inventors of the proximity fuse during World War II and has been prominent in the fields of meteorology and military research. For those who would like to know more of Dr. Workman, we suggest you refer to Who's Who—quite amazing.

There you have it; I apologize for such a lengthy article, but I sincerely do believe that the knowledge of these men, limited as it is, will bring some to the Conference who would not otherwise attend. It should also be noted that there might be friends, not in the profession of Architecture but interested in science in the manner in which we are offering it, at the Conference who would like to attend our sessions. Please make it known to them that we are including in our registration, "Guests", and they will be most welcome.

Report From The University

(Continued from Page 13)

the following service: programming which includes product analysis, future expansion, economic feasibility, master planning, architectural design which includes mock-up of building details for cost and construction considerations. It didn't include construction.

How can the one-man office compete with this service? He cannot. This is what big business demands. If the architect doesn't supply this service, some one else will. Remember that of approximately sixty billions that are spent each year in construction in this country, less than twenty billions is designed by architects.

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Dick Halford Opens Office

Richard Halford recently announced the opening of his new firm, Richard Halford, Architect. His offices are located in Santa Fe at 412 Canyon Rd.

Dick came to New Mexico about seven years ago from Clear Lake, Iowa. As it is with a lot of New Mericans he was here just for a vacation; however, after looking the state over and especially Santa Fe he was much impressed and decided to make this his home.

While still on vacation Dick applied for and received a job with W. C. Kruger and Associates. While with this firm he was employed as a structural engineer and project architect.

Dick received his formal education at Iowa State College in Ames, Iowa, where he graduated with a B.S. Degree in Architectural Engineering. He received his professional engineering license in New Mexico in 1956 and became a registered architect in 1958. He is a corporate member of the American Institute of Architects and has been associated with the AIA since his days at Iowa State College.

The offices of Richard Halford, Architect, will handle both architectural and engineering work; however, the accent will be in the field of architecture.

Dick resides in Santa Fe with his wife Louise and daughter Patsy.

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A Glow on the Horizon

Don't look now, but that aurora borealis beginning to glow faintly in the mountain area is the New Mexico Chapter A.I.A. testing out and igniting their plans for the Western Mountain Region's annual conference to be held in Albuquerque on Science in Architecture, come 8-10 October 1959. Nothing that the Western Mountain Region has ever done or enjoyed is likely to be so splendiferous.

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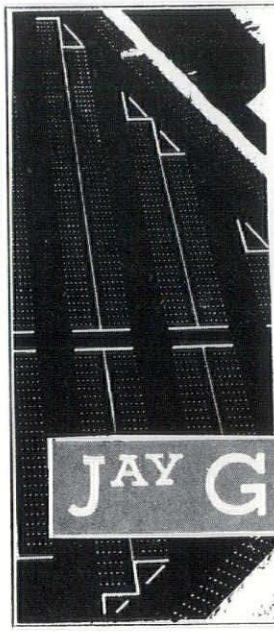

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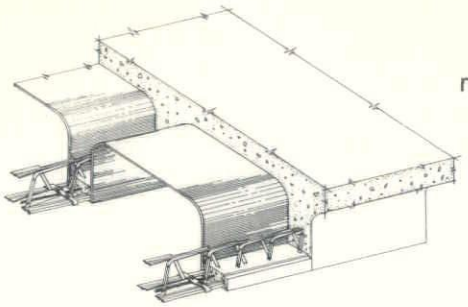

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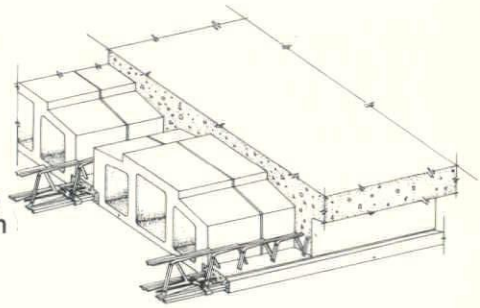

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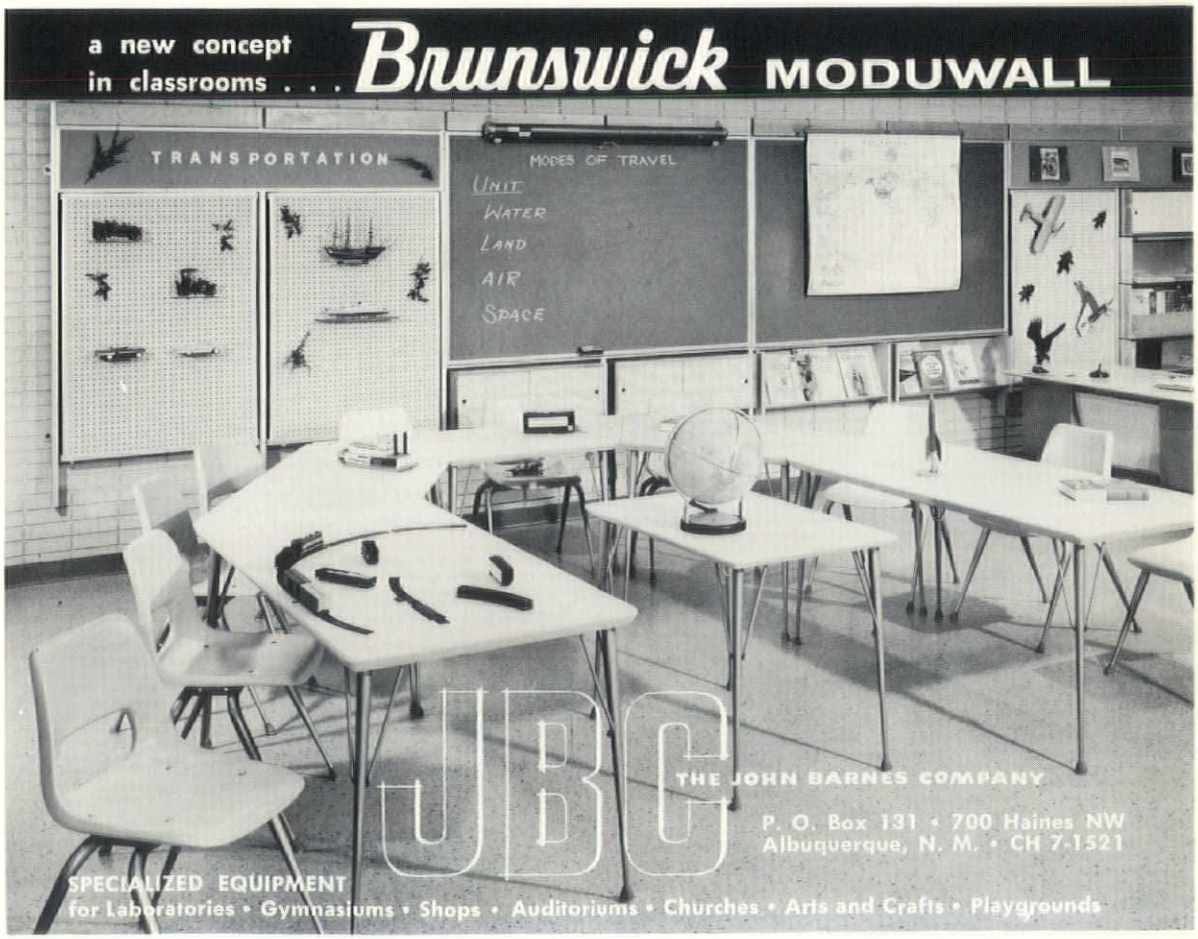

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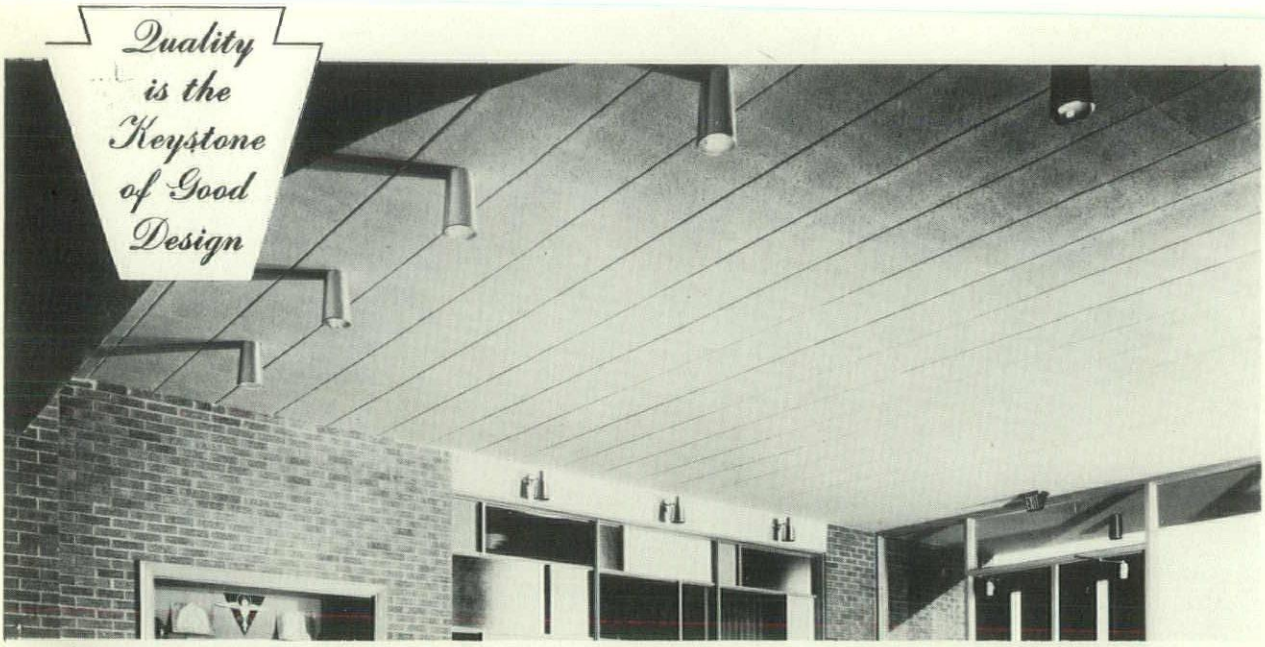

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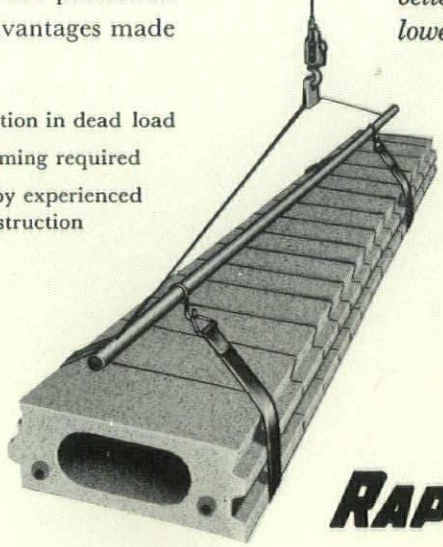

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